
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 12:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

Commission Members: Doug Osborne, Dr. Myron Fribush, Lauren Hughey,
Lloyd Platson, Jeff Arndt, Clara Gray, Brian Richardson
Tristan Guevin (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Osborne called the meeting to order at approximately 11:59AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Doug Osborne, Lauren Hughey, Jeff Arndt, Clara Gray, Brian Richardson (arrived at 12:46 PM)

III. AGENDA CHANGES

M - Arndt/S - Hughey moved to approve the agenda with the following changes: move item B under New Business to A. Motion carried unanimously of the four members present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Hughey/S - Osborne moved approve the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously of the four members present.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. REPORTS

Chair - Osborne told of recognition from League of American Bicyclists from bronze to silver level. He thanked the Commission of their work on the safe driving ordinance stating it would go into effect on May 26.

Commissioners - Hughey reminded the Commission of the health fair on Saturday and told of a community café grant from the Office of Children's Services that needs partner organizations' help with an event slated for early June which would bring people together for preventative measures they could assist with.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - Asked for support of a utility subsidization ordinance and asked Commissioners how to capture more of the population.

Other(s) - None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sugar Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax Ordinance

Chair Osborne recapped this item. Hughey informed that Berkley had language in their ordinance that allocated funds and asked Commissioners for decisions on the need for findings.

M - Osborne/S - Arndt moved to have some rationale/findings under the purpose section of the ordinance. Motion carried unanimously of the four members present.

Hughey will draft accompanying information that has more detail. She asked for input

from the Commission on the definition of non-caloric sweetener bringing forth the FDA definition.

M – Osborne/S – Arndt moved to change the definition to be 5 in line with the FDA’s definition. Motion carried unanimously of the four members present.

Hughey brought up the definition of fruit juice, specifically with an addition of “100%” before “fruit or vegetable juice”.

Gray suggested including the grocery stores as soon as possible in this process. Hughey clarified that the tax will be levied on the distributors. Hughey agreed that out-reach was needed once sponsorship was acquired.

M – Osborne/S – Arndt moved to add “100%”, as recommended by the Center of Science in the Public Interest, in front of “natural fruit juices”. Motion carried unanimously of the four members present.

Richardson arrived at 12:46.

Gray had concerns with singling out distributors. Osborne told he would like to seek endorsements. Guevin thought that seeking endorsements would need Assembly approval as the Commission would be representing the City and Assembly. Osborne spoke in favor to look at this at the next meeting for the purpose and accompanying materials.

B. Safe Driving Ordinance

Chair Osborne told that this ordinance had been passed at the Assembly meeting of May 10. Deputy Clerk Henshaw told that a copy of the final signed, passed ordinance was in the packet.

C. 2016 Goals

Osborne gave a brief update on the goals: 1) Cohost networking gatherings. Osborne told of the next gathering of the Health Summit on October 21, 2) Public Health initiative. Working on, and 3) Public Health Policy. This was just discussed in the previous item.

D. Three Foot Bike Rule Ordinance

M – Osborne/S – Richardson moved to postpone this item. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fish Consumption Rate Resolution

M – Hughey/S – Arndt moved to support the resolution to encourage the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to Update Alaska’s Human Health Criteria based on an Increase Estimated Fish Consumption Rate. Motion passed 4 – 1.

Guevin had concerns with how it would be supported and if it would be allowed without Assembly approval. He would check with City staff. Hughey stated it could be supported in letter format and that it would likely mostly impact the mining industry. Gray questioned the effects on the fishing community. Richardson questioned the impact on harbors and Arndt echoed as well as the timber processing facilities. Hughey explained that this would be advocating for lowering contaminants and that Sitka was below that threshold. Osborne thought to bring this back at the next meeting.

B. Banning Plastic Bag Ordinance

Arndt handed out an example ordinance from Bethel that has passed. He told that Homer and Fairbanks passed but then vetoed and encouraged the Commission to watch the Netflix movie *Bag It*. Guevin told of history with a previous Assembly member, recommended timing this after the grand bargain special election, and thought that Assembly approval was needed in order for the Commission to reach out to grocery stores.

Guevin left the meeting at 1:24PM.

Hughey told of how Corvallis does not provide plastic bags and of their \$.05 fee for paper bags. Richardson was in support and thought organizations that use the plastic bags were key to moving forward. Gray thought giving people a choice would make a difference and to look into what Hawaii does. Osborne stated he was in support, had heard lot of others talking of the same subject, spoke to the animals dying from plastic, and told of a possible trash summit and wondered where the funding would go. Arndt relayed that some places give back money to the grocer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Agenda items for next meeting.

No new items were discussed.

B. Set next meeting date.

M - Osborne/S - Richardson move the normally scheduled meeting from June 8th to June 24th. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting was set for Friday, June 24, 2016 at noon.

Seeing no objection the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:38PM.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk